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Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY

COVID cases: "The most we've ever seen," says mayor

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – On Dec. 1, Mayor John Vieau addressed the city's rapidly ascending COVID-19 case count but reaffirmed his belief that a vaccine will reach Chicopee by year's end. From Vieau's perspective, the night will be darkest before the dawn.

"We're hopeful that there's a light at the end of the tunnel, but the numbers are rising in Chicopee," said Vieau. "Today was our record. There were 55 confirmed cases today; the most we've ever seen."

On Wed. Dec. 2, it was announced that there have been a total of 1,573 COVID-19 cases recorded in Chicopee in 2020. There are currently 645 active cases in the city while 830 residents have recovered from the virus.

During the Mayor's Briefing on Tuesday evening, Vieau shared a report stating that Baystate Health has hospitalized 100 COVID-19 patients for the first time since May. In Massachusetts, Vieau reported that 8.4 million people had been tested for COVID-19 as of Dec. 1, and 218,329 have tested positive for the virus.

"Back in March, I said that I was really concerned about the death toll across this country. I didn't want Chicopee to be a big statistic in that number," said Vieau. "I can tell you that Massachusetts, right now, has 10,512 deaths as of [Nov. 30] related to COVID-19. We've had 19 people die in the city of Chicopee of COVID-related [causes], God rest their souls."

STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI.

An electronic sign in Chicopee reminds people to remain socially distant. On Tuesday, there were 55 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 – the highest single-day count since the pandemic began, according to Mayor John Vieau.

As Chicopee enters into the heart of the storm, an end to the pandemic may hopefully be in sight; 400,000 vaccines will reach the state of Massachusetts by Dec. 31. Vieau described the anticipat-

See COVID page 5

POLICE

Three arrested on drug trafficking charges

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – Three people were arrested on Nov. 20, following the discovery of more than 350 grams of cocaine, an illegal firearm and approximately $28,000 in cash in a home on Marshall Avenue. Among those arrested were two senior citizens.

Thirty-one-year Alex Perez, 71-year-old Felix Perez and 65-year-old Rosa Cruz were each placed into custody. The Chicopee Police Department and the Western Massachusetts Gang Task executed the search and obtained a warrant to enter the Ward 3 residence after investigating potential drug dealing.

Alex Perez was charged with trafficking more than 200 grams of cocaine. The other two suspects were charged with trafficking cocaine between the amounts of 36 and 100 grams.

Alex Perez was also charged with possession to distribute marijuana, possession of Class B and Class E narcotics, possession of a firearm without a license, felony possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition without an FID card, according to police.

Over the past two decades, Chicopee's crime statistics reflect an overall downward trend, as the

See ARRESTS page 5

COMMUNITY

School Committee requests waiver for MCAS

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – On Dec. 2, the Chicopee School Committee took a stand against the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, a form of standardized testing taken by all students in the Commonwealth.

The committee unanimously favored the submission of a letter to the federal government, requesting that MCAS testing be waived as a requirement for students during the current school year. Ward 9 representative Mary Beth Costello brought the motion to the table.

"As far as I've been told, the MCAS has not been waived for this year. We've learned and heard from various speakers that remote learning is not as effective in education as in-person learning," said Costello.

Costello's motion was met with approval by each of her fellow committee members. She said she believes all students should be permitted to forgo the MCAS during the 2020-2021 academic year.

"It's based on the fact that the education system has been uprooted statewide, and you can't have a test in this day and age that has a one-size-fits-all or one-size-fits-most, because there are going to be students who will be at a disadvantage."

With no students inside of the building, a sign in the front windows of Chicopee High School encourages passers-by to remain safe.

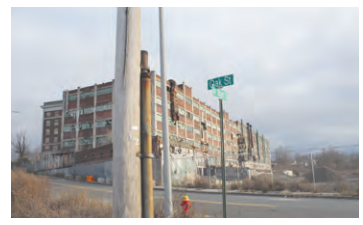
Superintendent Lynn Clark said the decision to waive the MCAS is not determined by the state's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

"On the federal level, they have to allow states to be able to put in for a waiver," said Clark. "In Massachusetts, there are many districts and senators who have said they would like that, but right now Massachusetts cannot put a waiver in yet."

Many seniors in the Class of 2021 must still pass the MCAS to graduate. In Chicopee, a number of them are slated to take the retest in January.

On Tuesday evening, the committee recommended that seniors be permitted to for-

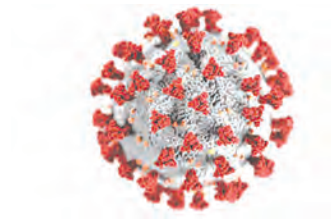
See MCAS page 5



CITY

Council approves housing zone

See Page 2



CITY

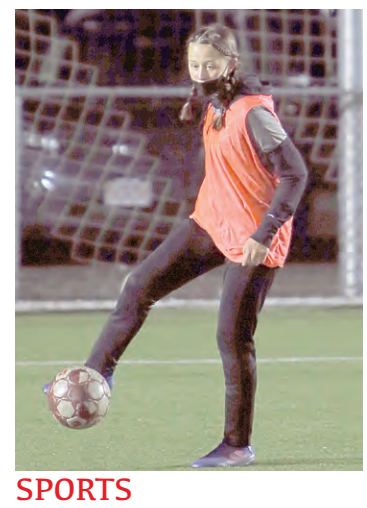
City reverts to Step 1 Phase 3

See Page 3

SPORTS

Wrestling to be played in spring

See Page 6



SPORTS

Pioneers look for roster hopefuls

See Page 6

Experts warn of online scams

See Page 11

INDEX

Opinion	4
Sports	6
Public Notices	8,9
Classifieds	10
Faces and Places	11

Council approves housing development zone in Chicopee

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – On Dec. 1, the City Council voted unanimously to approve the Falls Village Housing Development Zone in Chicopee Falls, a designated housing zone under the state's Housing Development Incentive Program (HDIP).

HDIP offers Gateway Cities in the Commonwealth the ability to develop market-rate housing, with the aim of increasing residential growth. Gateway Cities are defined by the state as those with a population between 35,000 – 250,000, a median household income below the state average, and rate of attainment of a bachelor's degree (or higher degree) which is below the state average.

The program endeavors to support economic development, diversify housing stock and promote neighborhood stabilization in these areas. It also provides tax incentives for developers.

"I want to be clear – this program applies only to a project that is market rate," said Lee Pouliot, director of the Chicopee Planning Department, who led a Sept. 23 forum that discussed the matter.

Developers that create market-rate housing are eligible to benefit from the program. It is hoped that the subsequent residential growth will positively impact the city.

By approving the motion, the council authorized Chicopee Mayor John Vieau to grant authority to implement property tax exemptions in increments, as specified by the zone plan. Exemptions can be no less than 10% and no more than 100%.

A 51-unit apartment complex will soon be built on Oak St., and the developer will be eligible to receive HDIP tax incentives, as part of the Falls Village Housing Development Zone plan that was approved during the Dec. 1 meeting of City Council.

Pouliot was present during Mayor John Vieau's Tuesday evening briefing and elaborated further on the program. Projects that receive the incentive may take on different shapes and sizes but must all include market-rate, residential units, Pouliot emphasized.

"There's a minimum of three units in a project, which is what qualifies you to apply for this tax credit," he said. "This is a tax incentive only for market-rate housing. It does not apply to commercial development. A developer can do a mixed project, but would have to apply to both tax credit programs to get both benefits."

Three current proposals would be eligible for the tax incentive, including a 51-unit proposal on Oak Street. Councilor-at-Large James Tillitson expressed reservations regarding the Falls Village project before voting to approve the motion for the housing zone designation.

"When you boil it all down, it comes down to the three projects that are on the books, that we know about, waiting for their tax credits and to negotiate with the city to see what they can get," said Tillitson, who noted that the city has never given a 100% tax credit.

"The only thing that concerns me here now is that we set a precedent," continued Tillitson. "If we give [incentives] to one, the others are all going to look for the same thing. Whatever we do for the first one who comes in, we're going to have to set the bellwether for the other two or three or whatever is left."

Developers looking to acquire and develop existing properties into market-rate housing are also eligible to apply for the program.

"We wanted to keep the district broad enough in areas where we know we have older housing stock to, maybe, also assist in incentivizing upgrading of that housing stock," said Pouliot.

Before his briefing concluded, Vieau complimented Pouliot and the planning department for its effort preparing the HDIP proposal. Noting that the proposal will go to the state for review, Vieau said he was thoroughly impressed with Pouliot's work.

"I can tell you that his team didn't develop this overnight. There's been an extreme, collaborative effort between the planning department and his team so, Lee, accolades to your team for putting together such a well-prepared, well-written HDIP plan, because that's what this is," said Vieau.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

PNA Lodge 711 children's Christmas party canceled

CHICOPEE – Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the annual PNA Lodge 711 children's Christmas party, normally held on the first Sunday of December, has been canceled.

The election of officers will be held on Dec. 4 at 11 a.m. at the Polish Center at 33 South St., Chicopee. Any PNA Lodge 711 member wishing to attend must wear a mask and maintain social distancing.

The officers of PNA Lodge 711 of Chicopee wish everyone a happy, safe and healthy Holiday season. We hope to see you next year as we plan for our 2021 events. If you have any questions, please contact PNA Lodge 711 President, Gilbert Sherman at (413) 596-9578.

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Chicopee reverts to Step 1 of Phase 3 in state reopening plan

CHICOPEE – As of Nov. 30, the City of Chicopee has reverted to Step 1 of Phase 3 due to its classification remaining at a High Risk/Red community for three consecutive weeks.

Due to the ongoing increase throughout the Chicopee and the Commonwealth, the Board of Health has ordered the city to revert to Step 1 of Phase 3.

"As a community, we need to be more diligent to stop the spread; therefore, we have to roll back to Step 1 of Phase 3 immediately. We will continue to monitor but please follow the guidelines so we can support the local businesses but also remain healthy," said Lisa Sanders, Board of Health Director.

The following types of businesses are prohibited from operating during Step 1 of Phase 3:

- Indoor performance venues
- Roller skating rinks
- Trampoline parks
- Obstacle courses
- Laser tag
- Escape rooms

The following types of businesses must reduce capacity to 40% when operating during Step 1 of Phase 3:

- Driving/flight schools
- Gyms
- Library
- Museums
- Arcades
- Lower-contact indoor and outdoor recreation businesses

During Step 1, outdoor gatherings at event venues and in public settings are limited to 50 people.

During Step 1, outdoor theater and performance venues may operate at 25% capacity but no more than 50 people.

For more details on the sector-specific requirements for Step 1 of Phase 3 versus Step 2 of Phase 3, visit: https://www.mass.gov/lists/business-sector-reopening-guidance-for-phase-3-steps-1-2

Virtual Tang Soo Do Korean Martial Arts

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department is offering virtual lessons in Tang Soo Do, a Korean martial art.

Come learn with Instructor Master Jeffrey Bulissa, a fourth-degree black belt in Tang Soo Do, and learn about self-defense, confidence and physical fitness.

Classes will be held on Monday and Wednesday evenings virtually in the comfort of your own home. The classes will run from Dec. 2 – 28.

Classes are being offered for Little Dragons (ages five to six) from 5 – 5:30 p.m.; Gups (beginners white, orange, green belts, ages seven and up) from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m; and Gups (advanced brown belts and above, ages seven and up) from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Classes require enough space to perform various movements.

Cost is $40 for Little Dragons and $50 for beginner and advanced Gups. All participants will be emailed a link to get into the classes. To register, go to www.chicopeerec.com.

"Moms WWII Letters" Zoom presentation

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging will offer the Zoom program "Moms WWII Letters" on Monday, Dec. 14 at 1 p.m.

In May 2017, Corinne Smith found her mother's stash of more than 80 letters from 16 servicemen she had corresponded with in 1944 – 1945. Corinne began to trace the soldiers' family trees with one goal in mind: to return the letters in person to their children.

This presentation links history and genealogy to present-day research and diligence. And it may prompt others to wonder for themselves what treasures lurk in their own old family boxes, and how they can share the information with others.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. This Zoom link will be provided on RiverMills Facebook page. If you do not have Facebook, please call RiverMills Center to register and receive the Zoom link.

Boy Scouts to hold wreath sale

CHICOPEE – Boy Scout Troop 138 of Chicopee will be holding its annual wreath sale Dec. 5 and 6 at St. Joan of Arc School on Grattan Street.

The sale will be held at 4:30 p.m. Saturday for that Mass, then all day Sunday from 8 a.m. on, or until they are gone. Price will be $10 for plain wreaths, $15 with a bow, and $30 for wreaths that have lights, bows, and a few decorations on them.

Yoga classes offered through Parks & Rec

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department is offering two yoga classes.

Classes are being offered on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. from Dec. 8 – 22, and on Saturday mornings from 10 – 11 a.m., from December 5 – 19.

The classes are designed to help provide rest and calm that includes breathing, gentle flowing movements and basic balancing postures that work for all skill levels. Masks must be worn at all times throughout the class. Please bring your own yoga mat and any props you wish to use, as they cannot be provided under current COVID-19 regulations.

All classes are held at the Chicopee Parks Dept., 687 Front St. The cost for either session is $40 for residents and $50 for non-residents. Class space is limited. Register at www.chicopeerec.com.

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GUEST COLUMN

Abusing 'march-in' rights would jeopardize COVID-19 research

By David Winwood

Thirty-one state attorneys general recently urged the Trump administration to disregard the intellectual property protections on Remdesivir (brand name Veklury) – the first FDA-approved treatment for COVID-19 – and then license its patents to multiple drug manufacturers.

These attorneys general claim that this action would make the drug more affordable and accessible, and further claim that the 1980 Bayh-Dole Act gives the federal government the power to take such action.

But they're wrong -- the Bayh-Dole Act doesn't apply in this case. Even if it did, arbitrarily seizing an inventor's intellectual property would set a terrible precedent –- one that would threaten the health and prosperity of nearly every American for decades to come.

The Bayh-Dole Act is the backbone of America's research ecosystem. The law enables academic and non-profit institutions to retain the patents on their own research discoveries, even if that research was funded in part by federal grants. These universities and non-profits can subsequently license those patents to private companies, which have the skill and capital to turn good ideas into viable products.

Unsurprisingly, America's economy is stronger because of the law. Bayh-Dole-related discoveries support up to 6 million jobs and $865 billion in GDP.

Bayh-Dole also enables urgently needed medical innovation. Moderna's leading COVID-19 vaccine candidate, for example, was partly built on research licensed from some of the nation's leading academic institutions. The law has also helped facilitate the discovery of more than 200 other medications, including Allegra, FluMist, nicotine patches, and dozens of cancer therapies.

The basic ideas behind these products had their origins in university laboratories. But to become market-ready inventions, each required hundreds of millions of further investment and years of development work, virtually all provided by the private sector.

The state AGs claim that the "march-in" rights embedded in the Bayh-Dole Act allow the federal government to relicense patents that resulted from federal funding. That's true -- but the law only permits this in extreme cases, such as when a company has licensed a university invention but refuses to produce it, while also preventing other firms from developing it.

That's not what's happening with Remdesivir -- which wasn't invented in a university laboratory supported by federal grants. So, the Bayh-Dole Act doesn't apply, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Even if Remdesivir was a "Bayh-Dole" drug, the manufacturer, Gilead Sciences, has done nothing to withhold its production. Gilead already donated its entire existing supply of 1.5 million doses to the U.S. government and licensed the drug to other manufacturers for worldwide production. And it's producing millions more doses and providing them at prices that are deemed reasonable by independent watchdogs.

Using emergency march-in rights as a de facto price control would send a chilling message to companies in every industry: Don't bother investing billions of R&D dollars to turn federally funded inventions into real-life, market-ready products, since the government will just steal the fruit of your labor.

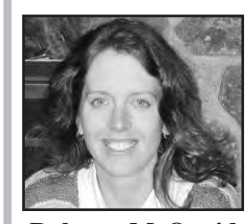
Bayh-Dole helps us live healthier, more prosperous lives. We should nurture this innovation, not squash it by inappropriate use of march-in rights.

David Winwood has worked for almost 25 years in university technology transfer and economic development roles at several research-intensive public universities. He previously served as President of the AUTM.

GUEST COLUMN

They key to successful Christmas arrangements is variety

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

It's so much fun to arrange flowers! I absolutely love utilizing different colors and textures side by side to create a gorgeous arrangement. The same holds true when making wreaths or mixed planters for the holidays. Even though you are using hues of essentially the same color, green, the excitement is in the texture. From airy white pine to rigid spruce, wispy arborvitae to dense juniper, pointy-leaved holly to minute boxwood, they look great together when thoughtfully arranged. Finish your creation with the addition of pinecones, winterberries and even sumac or budded Pieris as accents, and you will be following in the footsteps of pro designers.

Acquiring lots of greens is easy. Many of the plants I mentioned make their homes in our landscapes or the nearby woods. While it's not recommended to go overboard, I regularly prune this time of year purposely to use the clippings in my decorating. The key to a good cut is not to leave stubs; always snip next to a side branch and space your pruning around the plant, not all in the same spot. And it goes without saying to do your best to ask permission when snipping on someone else's property.

Here is a refresher course from previous columns on how to make some of our favorite Christmastime arrangements:

Making a wreath is easy. Start with a wire coat hanger opened up into a circle. Attach some pliable wire to it. Then, wrap little bunches of greens to the base one after another. Be careful to lay them alongside, not on top of each other. You can make a wreath of just one type of green at a time, or make mixed "bouquets" for your bunches. When you reach the end of the wreath, hide the last bunch under the first and secure the wire. You can easily make a loop for hanging, or use the hook that came with the coat hanger.

If this sounds too difficult, why not make a simple swag? Choose a sturdy green for the base and position it stem pointing up with the pretty side facing you. Grab another type of green a bit smaller than the first and put it on top. Do this again and again with varying greens until you have a nice upside-down "fan." To complete your swag, wrap wire around the stems four or five inches down from the top, leaving a loop on the back for a hanger. You can cover the wire with a bow, and insert some berries or wired on pinecones should you wish.

Homemade cemetery boxes are also simple to make, even for a novice floral arranger. If you don't have plastic window boxes or wooden "logs" in your garage, spare plastic pots are fine substitutes. The key to crafting these is to remember that they are viewed from the front, so start with your tallest, most rigid boughs in the back and work your way forward. My mother always uses plain old garden soil to fill the container and hold the greens in place. Some florists use 'sahara' floral foam- it is a great anchor and is less messy but because it is so light in weight, add some stones to plastic containers to keep them in place.

Mixed winter planters are made the same way. Try to keep the "one and a half" rule from Floral Arranging 101 in mind when determining how tall your planter should be. For proportions to be right, the height of your arrangement should be one and a half times the height of the container. For example, if your planter is a foot tall, your grouping of greens can be 18 inches high. If this planter is viewed all the way around, start in the middle of the container and work out in one direction, then turn it around and do the same on the other side. Use rigid greens such as spruce to get your height. Wispy greens like white pine look great spilling over the edge, gaining width. Because they are dense, juniper and boxwood make great fillers. Holly and Pieris are fancy and perfect for accent. If berries are scarce, you can dress up a planter with red twigs, bows, gilded pods and the like.

Have fun scouring the countryside for a variety of greens this holiday season and even more fun crafting your arrangements!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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COVID from page 1

ed pattern of distribution.

"Vaccines will be distributed to the front-liners first. Next would come our first responders," said Vieau. "That is my understanding of the hierarchy of people who will receive the vaccine. Then, from there, congregate homes and then, I assume, from there would probably be students and teachers."

Vieau said the city will follow state-mandated guidelines pertaining to the distribution of vaccines; Chicopee will not establish its own protocols.

Medical facilities throughout the Commonwealth will contribute to the distribution process, and a variety of local entities could play a role.

"There's contracts with Walgreens and CVS. There will be hopefully be municipal vaccine sites available," said Vieau. "We're doing everything we can to prepare. The hospitals are preparing with freezing mechanisms to keep things cold – they're using dry ice. They're waiting for approval."

On Dec. 1, Vieau was instructed that approximately 40 million Moderna or Pfizer vaccines are ready to be distributed throughout the country within 24 hours of approval being granted. He urged residents to commit to social distancing and wearing masks, as did Health Director Lisa Sanders.

"The City of Chicopee has gone from yellow to red in just a few weeks. Our residents need to take COVID-19 seriously. We are all at increased risk of contracting this virus if people continue to ignore the importance of following the recommended preventative measures," said Sanders, in a Nov. 27 press release.

Beginning on Nov. 30, Chicopee reverted back to Step 1 of Phase 3 of the state's reopening plan, due to the extended and ongoing spike in positive cases. A number of businesses are impacted by the decision, which was mandated last week by the Board of Health.

"As a community, we need to be more diligent to stop the spread. Therefore, we have to roll back to Step 1 of Phase 3 immediately. We will continue to monitor, but please follow the guidelines so that we can support the local businesses but also remain healthy," said Sanders on Nov. 27.

As part of Step 1 of Phase 3, businesses such as indoor performance venues, roller skating rinks, trampoline parks, obstacle courses, laser tag and escape rooms are prohibited from operating.

Businesses required to reduce capacity to 40% include driving/flight schools, gyms, libraries, museums, arcades and lower-contact indoor and outdoor recreation operations.

Moving forward, Vieau is confident that the city will soon triumph over COVID-19. In the meantime, he emphasized the importance of following through when it comes to safe practices.

"I plead with people, I've tried to get the message out and am sure many of you do the same to please follow those simple rules, social distance, wear a mask. It's an order, the advisory to stay home if you can between 10 p.m and 5 a.m., and to sanitize and disinfect whenever you can," said Vieau.

Up-to-date COVID-19 case counts can be located on the city's website at chicopeema.gov/CivicAlerts.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

MCAS from page 1

go passing the MCAS without consequence. While the committee's original motion did not extend to seniors, an amendment was made, requesting that the test be waived entirely this school year.

"If we're going to ask them to waive it, we should ask them to waive it for everybody. I really don't want to bring the seniors into the school now to take a test for three hours with the learning that they've had for the past year. It's not fair to them," said Ward 7 representative Donald Lamothe, who relayed that U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos has spoken about waiving the requirements until 2022.

Timothy Wagner, a Chicopee Comprehensive High School student slated to graduate next spring, joined the Dec. 2 meeting as a student representative to the committee.

"As a student, I don't think that any class or any student can take this sort of a test given the circumstances," said Wagner. "Given the limitations that we've seen with remote learning and the difficulties that some students are having, I don't think that we're in a place where we can afford to administer this test to large numbers of students. I don't think it will be a successful outcome and think we're going to see scores drop significantly from what we saw last year and the year prior."

Wagner voiced his understanding that there are seniors who have not yet passed the MCAS and, under the current guidelines, must do so to graduate. If the MCAS is not waived in its entirety, Wagner said improvements must be made in how the tests are completed online.

"I would like to point out that there were a lot of difficulties with the AP tests and remotely taking those," he said. "If it ends up that we have to administer these tests, we should take into account what happened there and try to mitigate any difficulties that we might have, be it with internet or a test not submitting. We should have the proper procedures in place in the event that any of that does happen."

Ward 1 committee representative James Tanhauser expressed considerable disapproval of the MCAS. Tanhauser feels that the system should be eliminated altogether as a requirement for graduation.

"I, personally, don't think that in any year the MCAS is that great of a tool, but especially not this year," said Tanhauser. "I do think it's fair to note in the letter that we don't think our students should need that requirement to graduate, especially not this year. If we want to put aside all the other years and the whole principle of the [MCAS], we should say that we don't believe seniors this year should be held to taking that test to graduate."

Numerous committee members commended Tanhauser's take, as the board doubled down on its stance regarding Chicopee seniors taking the MCAS. While the committee itself can't implement a policy change, members are hopeful that the letter will influence those responsible for making the decision.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

ARRESTS from page 1

city's crime rate per 1,000 residents stands at 23.55.

Since crime can potentially take place anywhere out of sight, residents are asked to be observant of their surroundings. If you see something, say something, said CPD Public Information Officer Donna Liszka.

"It's evolved now to, 'If you hear something, tell someone.' The public is encouraged to contact the police department to inform us of any suspicious activity or behavior," said Liszka.

In Chicopee, the police department takes all tips and suggestions seriously. Liszka emphasized that residents can also communicate with the department while remaining anonymous.

All information received by the department is valued and vetted. To individuals who are hesitant to contact the department in fear of wasting an officer's time, Liszka explained that it's always worth the effort to reach out.

"One way or the other, it can bring peace of mind to the person who reports it; it's recorded and now the police will [follow up]," said Liszka.

Reporting suspicious behavior or activity to law enforcement can have much larger implications than one might realize.

COURTESY OF THE CHICOPEE POLICE DEPT

Three residents were arrested on Nov. 20 after more than 350 grams of cocaine and an illegal firearm were found in a Marshall Avenue residence.

"It warrants as well that some of this information that is reported to the police could lead to a bigger investigation. It could prevent a situation or it could save someone's life," said Liszka. "The parameters are so big, but if someone doesn't say something, the department might not be aware of it."

The Chicopee Police Dept. can be contacted at its non-emergency number, 413-594-1700.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer at dzbierski@turley.com.

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Sports

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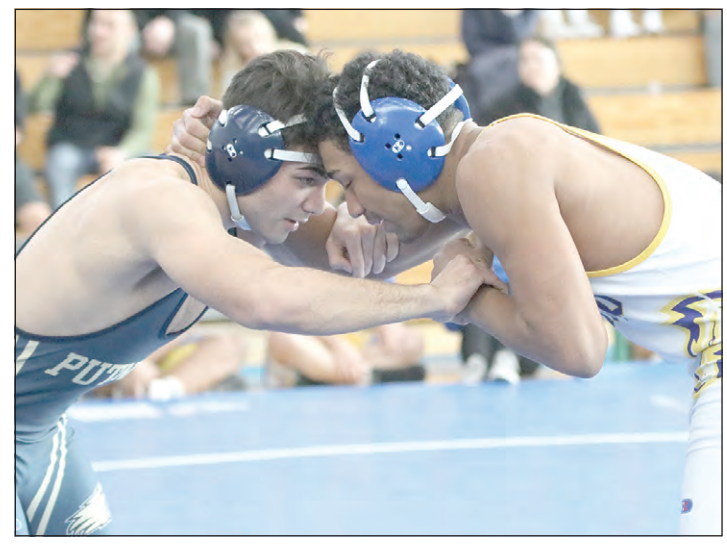
Wrestling to be played in spring season

Chase Collina wrestles a heavyweight match during the 2019 Western Mass. tournament.



PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Ezequiel Perez locks up in a match.

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – First it was outdoor "indoor" track, now could wrestling be moving outdoors?

Rather than cancel the high school wrestling season, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association has voted to move wrestling to the spring season.

A "bubble" was placed between the winter and spring seasons to account for sports that were either shut down, or in the case of football and cheerleading, sports that were deemed high-risk to play during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

While there is optimism some restrictions will lift as the vaccine rolls out in the next few months, the MIAA is operating as through the pandemic conditions exist until they are otherwise guided by the state Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The EEA has been issuing the guidance high schools have been operating with. The guidance has included modified rules and protocols utilized to help keep students healthy while also remaining on the athletic fields.

The EEA has advised against wrestling during the winter season due to the sport having "sustained close contact" between competitors.

With football already set to be played during the "bubble" season, the decision was made to try and have wrestling during the spring season.

With school gymnasiums being utilized for boys volleyball during the spring as well as the temperatures rising, the idea of hosting wrestling meets outdoors has been broached. It is unclear how that would look and what conditions spring athletes will compete under, but it would definitely be a first to hold wrestling meets outdoors. Meets typically take place in the center of a gymnasium on hard mats.

While it will more than likely be played during the bubble season, indoor track is also being talked about to be played outdoors due to the improving weather between February and April.

It is otherwise unclear how a change in seasons will affect already shrinking wrestling programs in the region. Many teams are having more and more trouble fielding full teams of at least 14 wrestlers, of which

See WRESTLING page 7

HoopHall event cancelled, to return in 2022

SPRINGFIELD — The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced today the cancellation of the 2021 Spalding Hoophall Classic presented by Eastbay. The annual basketball showcase entering its 20th year at Springfield College, the birthplace of basketball, is typically played during MLK Weekend.

"We're obviously extremely disappointed to cancel Hoophall Classic, a premiere event in the high school basketball calendar," said Greg Procino, Vice President of Basketball Operations for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. "The event has seen tremendous talent and success over the past two decades, with a number of sellout crowds, but ultimately the safety of our fans, student athletes and staff is of the utmost importance. We thank Springfield and our marketing partners for their support over the years and look forward to returning to Blake Arena when it's safe to do so."

The Basketball Hall of

See HOOPHALL page 7

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Pioneers look for roster hopefuls

Though the tryouts had to be more staggered with plenty of social distance, the Western Mass. Pioneers organization held tryouts prior to the Thanksgiving holiday for its many academy youth teams. Tryouts were held for numerous age groups for both boys and girls at Lusitano Field. The Pioneers are hopeful to have a normal regular season starting in the spring.

MIAA issues statement regarding status of winter sports

FRANKLIN – The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) COVID-19 Task Force representatives today presented winter sport modifications and recommendations for the 2020-2021 season to the MIAA Board of Directors.

This presentation culminated a two-week MIAA governance process which included sport-specific sub-committee meetings where updated Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and current Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary (DESE) guidelines were reviewed. These subcommittees created sport-specific modifications and presented them to the full committees for approval. The MIAA Sports Medicine Committee (SMC) and ultimately the MIAA Covid-19 Task force subsequently approved the modifications.

MIAA Executive Director Bill Gaine stated, "The MIAA's mission can be defined by a dual prescription: promoting maximum participation opportunities for the maximum number of student-athletes so that life lessons can be learned. At the same time, promoting the health

See WINTER SPORTS page 7

T-Birds make big food donation

SPRINGFIELD – On Tuesday, Nov. 24, Springfield Thunderbirds' mascot Boomer along with members of the Springfield Thunderbirds front office and MassMutual staff made a large donation of non-perishable food items to Friends of the Homeless in Springfield.

The donation, a sizable amount of food spanning multiple pallets, is the culmination of a successful "Thanks for Giving" program the Thunderbirds' Foundation hosted for the month of November, with support from MassMutual. Supporters of the Thunderbirds were encouraged to visit the office or Hilton Garden Inn in Springfield to donate food, with the Nicebox Icebox parked outside the Thunderbirds' office every Wednesday to receive donations.

"It was tremendous to see the generosity of so many individuals the past few weeks," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "Our sincerest thanks go out to all that supported the drive, including MassMutual. These past few months have been challenging, but we're happy that we can continue to make an impact on our community through Foundation-related programs."

Friends of the Homeless is a program operated by Clinical & Support Options (CSO) that provides shelter to more than 1,000 individual men and women each year and also assigns a case worker to each guest to help them find work, permanent homes, navigate assistance programs, and access behavioral and mental health support.

Tuesday's delivery continued a consistent track record of community involvement from the T-Birds Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity established by the franchise to benefit causes in Springfield and surrounding Pioneer Valley communities. Over the summer, the T-Birds Foundation made a number of food deliveries to front line workers as part of the "From the Heart" campaign. During the month of October, the T-Birds Foundation made a donation of $15,000 to the Rays of Hope, supporting breast cancer research and awareness.

The mission of the T-Birds Foundation is to serve the Springfield community and the Pioneer Valley beyond every win and loss through a focus on providing and supporting initiatives in the areas of health and wellness, youth enrichment, and civil service. Donations can be made to the T-Birds Foundation at any time by visiting https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/3391100.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

WRESTLING from page 6

each one can fit into every weight class. With wrestling being competed in the spring, some schools could lose competitors to their regular spring sports, including lacrosse, baseball, tennis, and track. There also could be a lack of tournaments for individual wrestlers to compete in depending on how the region reacts to the sports movement to the spring.

There will be no winter tournaments for basketball and hockey. It is unknown whether spring sports will have tournaments played.

Wrestlers are allowed to have practices during the winter season.

HOOPHALL from page 6

Fame plans to relaunch the elite high school event in 2022. For the latest updates as they become available, follow @hoophallclassic on Instagram and Twitter.

The HoopHall event has featured many games featuring area high school teams, including South Hadley, Holyoke, Minnechaug, Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, South Hadley, Agawam, and Granby during its history.

WINTER SPORTS from page 6

and safety of all participants is the Association's imperative."

The MIAA Board of Directors voted to approve sport-specific modifications for the Winter Season. These modifications will continue to be reviewed as they relate to current regulations surrounding COVID-19 and may be modified if necessary. Additional modifications or the decision to participate in MIAA-recognized winter sports will be determined by local school districts and/or their local Board of Health. You may view the Task Force presentation on the MIAA website.

Highlights include:

The Winter Season will have a new start date of December 14, 2020.

Modifications for the sports of Wrestling, Indoor Track, winter Cheerleading and Dance were not created or presented due to committee recommendation for those sports to be moved to a different sport season. Indoor Track is moved to the Fall II Season and Wresting, winter Cheerleading and Dance are moved to the Spring Season.

MIAA President and Marshfield Superintendent Jeff Granatino said, "It is great to see that so many of our student-athletes will be able to take part in the sports they love this winter. Many coaches, athletic directors, principals and superintendents worked hard over the past few weeks to ensure that we would be able to offer interscholastic athletes for our students, and I want to thank them for their efforts."

Granatino added, "The pandemic has reshaped the way education is delivered across the country and the same can be said about its impact on athletics. Nonetheless, I am confident our student-athletes and coaches will adjust to the new expectations this winter and have an experience as fulfilling and as exciting as what we saw during the fall season. Gaine reinforced, "Our membership should be proud that our Board's actions today reflect allegiance to the MIAA mission."

The approved Winter Season sport modifications are located on the MIAA COVID-19 Task Force Page. The Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) document located on the Task Force page is currently being updated to better reflect and provide clarity with recent decisions. This will be posted as soon as possible.

Senior photos from fall season wanted

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The fall season is nearing its end and Turley Publications has been all over the action.

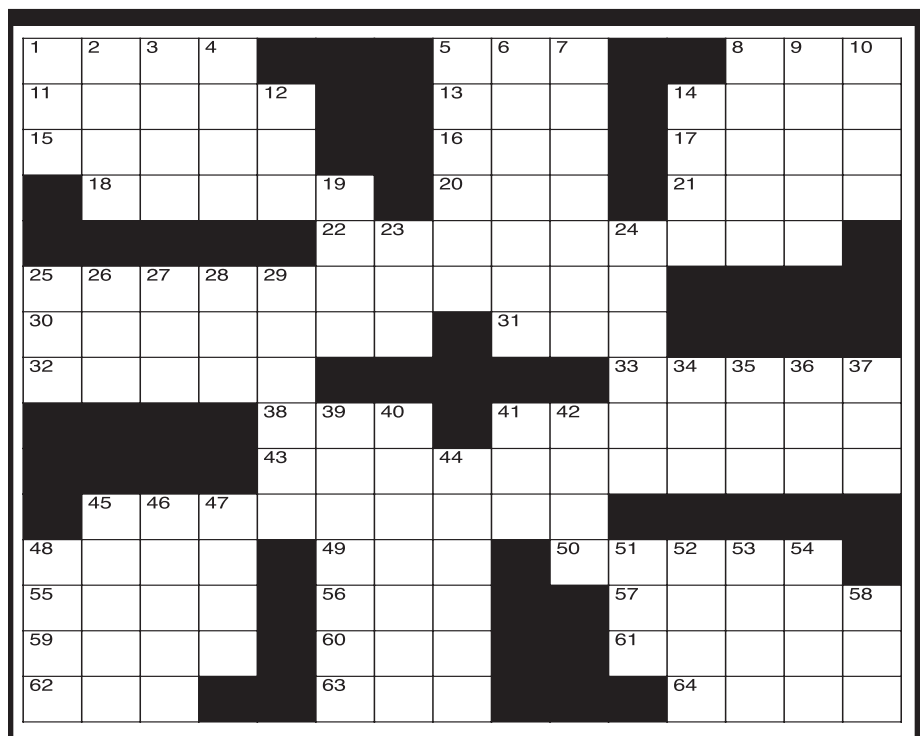
But with this unpredictable season there have been temporary or in some cases, permanent stoppages in play, and we still want to help feature your athletes, especially those who are seniors this year.

We continue to ask for help on this season in order to bring the best coverage we can possibly manage and fill our pages with names and color.

We know that fans will be limited to the home crowds, but that is where you all come in.

If you attended any senior games and would like to see those photos in our papers, we welcome submitted photos from those events and information about graduating seniors who participated in Fall 1 sports.

We also welcome any additional information about other major achievements. Send any and all information and photos for inclusion to sports@turley.com.



CLUES ACROSS
1. Opposite of west
5. __ Caesar, comedian
8. Helps little firms
11. A way to censor
13. Expresses atomic and molecular weights
14. Chalcedony
15. Type of sword
16. A corporation's first offer to sell stock to the public
17. Attired
18. A sequence of winding turns
20. Pal
21. Expresses pleasure
22. Amendable
25. Clear
30. A way to cut off
31. Indigenous Thai person
32. Pale brownish yellow color
33. Aquatic plants genus
38. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
41. Merchants
43. Fix a chair
45. Throws into disorganization
48. Famed German composer
49. Keyboard key
50. Oral polio vaccine developer
55. Partner to pain
56. Where golfers start
57. Jenny __: weight loss program
59. Sailing dinghy
60. Suffix that forms adjectives
61. Speeds at which music is played
62. Body part
63. Fall back
64. Ancient Greek sophist

CLUES DOWN
1. One point south of due east
2. Wings
3. One point south of southeast
4. The shirts on our backs
5. One who works on the seas
6. Select jury
7. Small intestines parts
8. Plant of the heath family
9. Extrasolar planet
10. Creates more of
12. Before
14. Forms over a cut
19. Runs down
23. Exercise regimen __-bo
24. Unkeyed
25. Principle underlying the universe
26. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
27. Residue
28. Company that rings receipts
29. Rugged mountain range
34. Commercials
35. NY footballer
36. They __
37. Soviet Socialist Republic
39. Poked holes in the ground
40. Pitchers
41. Your
42. Diana __, singer
44. Important document for inventors
45. Bangladesh capital
46. Fluid that flows in the veins of Greek gods
47. Famed daguerreotype photographer
48. Where military personnel work
51. Play a role
52. La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
53. Unstressed-stressed
54. Type of palm tree
58. Judo garments

ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD18P1886PM
In the matter of:
George J Pouliot
Of: Chicopee, MA
Protected Person/
Disabled Person/
Respondent
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **Temporary First and Final** account(s) of

Marlene Pouliot of Chicopee, MA

Laurie Cole of Chicopee, MA

as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before **10:00 A.M. on the return date of 12/15/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 17, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/04/2020

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE
LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 6:30 PM*** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-58 (C) (4) for the purpose of serving beer and wine at restaurant – an eating and drinking place with the consumption of alcohol located at 17 White Birch Plaza. Applicant – Emiray, Inc., dba Pizza Palace, Onur Onder, 17 White Birch Plaza, Chicopee, MA 01020.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications

***COVID-19:** Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A due to the novel Coronavirus outbreak, the December 16, 2020 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. As required, alternative public access to this hearing shall be provided in the following manner: The hearing will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Anyone wishing to participate either in person in the Chambers or remotely shall, provide notice to the Office of the City Council by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov by December 14, 2020. Those giving such notice will need to identify the public hearing and provide their name, address and contact phone number to minimize the potential for zoom bombing of the meeting and if attending in person to be screened as required by the City of Chicopee. The hearing will be available for viewing on Spectrum Access Channel 191 or the Chicopee TV website Facebook.com/ChicopeeTV and or https://vimeo.com/chicopeetv.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.
11/27, 12/04/2020

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Special Permit application under Chapter 275-50C and 275-9 for the purpose of installation of an accessory sign within 35 ft setback within an Industrial Garden Planned Unit Development, type 1 zone located at 27 Lonczak Drive. Applicant – University of Massachusetts, Amherst c/o Facilities & Campus Services, Gaetan Blais, 360 Campus Center Way, Amherst, MA 01003-9248.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications

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11/27, 12/04/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P1979EA
Estate of: Earl J Benoit
Date of Death: 08/21/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Denise Benoit** of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Denise Benoit** of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/23/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 18, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/04/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD18P1886PM
In the matter of:
George J Pouliot
Of: Chicopee, MA
Protected Person/
Disabled Person/
Respondent
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **First Annual** account(s) of

Marlene Pouliot of Chicopee, MA

Laurie Cole of Chicopee, MA

as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before **10:00 A.M. on the return date of 12/15/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 17, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/04/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD18P1886PM
In the matter of:
George J Pouliot
Of: Chicopee, MA
Protected Person/
Disabled Person/
Respondent
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **Second and Final** account(s) of

Marlene Pouliot of Chicopee, MA

Laurie Cole of Chicopee, MA

as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before **10:00 A.M. on the return date of 12/15/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 17, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/04/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20A0081AD
In the matter of:
Jayliah Marie Aponte-Dearborn
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, § 6

To: Wilfredo Jose Aponte
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:

Megan Marie Rodriguez of Chicopee, MA

Eric Rodriguez of Chicopee, MA requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Jayliah Marie Rodriguez

If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person. An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: **Springfield** on or before ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) on: **12/22/2020**.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 10, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
11/20, 11/27, 12/04/2020

MORE LEGALS ON PAGE 9

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P1994EA
Estate of:
Steven Donald Duffy
Date of Death: 10/18/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Judith H Duffy** of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Judith H Duffy** of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **12/18/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 20, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/04/2020

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by **Interstate Towing, Inc.** pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on **December 4, 2020** at Interstate Towing, Inc. the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2000 Chevrolet Malibu
Vin: 1G1nd52j8y6200347
William Spradlin
100 Main St
Blandford, Ma 01008

2002 Chevrolet Trailblazer
VIN: 1GNDT13S222194198
Ramone Molina
435 Lincoln St
Lowell, Ma 01852

2002 Ford Explorer
VIN: 1FMZU73K32UD58024
Elvin Fidel Morales Ramirez
67 Northampton Ave
Springfield, Ma 01109

2003 Volkswagen Gti
VIN: 9BWDE61J434041490
Anthony Arbuzov
27 Sycamore St
Westfield, Ma 01085

2004 Bmw 330Xi
VIN: WBAEW53434PN34278
Diamante Seguin
484 Chicopee St
Chicopee, Ma 01020

2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee
VIN: 1J4GW48S64C351262
Timothy Hallenbeck
101 Meadow St
Westfield, Ma 01085

2004 Saab 9-3
VIN: YS3FB45S241061493
Ryan Mcbring
20 N Lost Acres Rd
East Hartford, Ct 06027

2005 Honda Pilot
VIN: 2HKYF18535H572245
Neemi Rodriguez
1524 Corbin Ave
New Britain, Ct 06053

2006 Infiniti M35
VIN: JNKAY01F56M256859
Amanda Matos
134 Union St Apt 56
Westfield, Ma 01085

2006 Mazda 6
VIN: 1YVHP80D465M30796
Emily Maysonet
659 High St
Holyoke, Ma 01040

2006 Nissan Murano
VIN: JN8AZ08W16W521094
Wanda Lee Maldonado
32 Rosengarten Dr
Waterbury, Ct 06704

2007 Dodge Caliber
VIN: 1B3HB28B37D549663
Ricky Bairos/Lucia Gageiro-Bairos
23 Vinal Street
Hudson, Ma 01749

2008 Chevrolet Impala
VIN: 2G1WT58N481218322
Christopher Wilson
13 Dunster Dr
Hanover, Ma 03748

2008 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL24E78C220717
Anthony Ray Burge
13 Mystic St
Springfield, Ma 01109

2009 Nissan Murano
VIN: JN8AZ18WX9W154738
Letty Muniz
238 E Main St
Chicopee, Ma 01013

2009 Porsche Cayenne
VIN: WP1AB29P99LA40744
Gurbaksh S Ahuja
1 Rustic Ct
Plainview, Ny 11803

2009 Suzuki Sfv650
VIN: JS1VP55A092100868
Joseph Smith-Ortiz
53 Hampden St
West Springfield, Ma 01089

2010 Dodge Avenger
VIN: 1B3CC4FD4AN175900
Baystate Gas Company
995 Belmont St
Brockton, Ma 02301

2010 Eton Matrix
VIN: RK15VA0E0AA000600
Unknown

2010 Toyota 4Runner
VIN: JTEBU5JR6A5004254
Noah Ruggles-Lehman
100 Melville Ave
Boston, Ma 02124

2013 Audi A5
VIN: WAUCFAFR8DA060404
Mathew Malloy
495 Southwick St
Feeding Hills, Ma 01001

2014 Freightliner Cascadia 125
VIN: 3AKJGLBG7ESFK0620
Aas Trucking Llc
1400 Wantagh Ave # 203
Wantagh, Ny 11793

2014 Hyundai Elantra
VIN: 5NPDH4AE3EH488222
Destiny Santos
43 Silver St
Springfield, Ma 01107

2014 Kymco Agility 50
VIN: LC2U6A025EC001364
Carlos Montitjo
15 Narragansett St
Springfield, Ma 01104

2015 Doonan Base
VIN: 1D9BG5322F1609721
Little G Enterprise Llc
12211 Bernard Pkwy
Gulfport, Ms 39503

2015 Harlet-Davidson Fltrxs
VIN: 1HD1KTM16FB623508
Mark Wood
1198 Amostown Rd
West Springfield, Ma 01089

2016 Dodge Grand Caravan
VIN: 2C4RDGBG2GR122308
Julia C Medina
290 Broadway
Methuen, Ma 01844

2016 Tao Tao
VIN: 19NTEACT4H1050160
James Greene
16 Rimrock Rd
Belchertown, Ma 01007

2017 Gmc Acadia
VIN: 1GKKNSLS1HZ243931
Allen Rosario
143 Woodlawn St
Springfield, Ma 01108

2017 Nissan Pathfinder
VIN: 5N1DR2MM5HC641473
Michael Poindexter
23 Mort Vining Rd
Southwick, Ma 01077

2018 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCV1F32JA054516
Olivo Hamilton Polanco
50 Warren Street
Peabody, Ma 01960

2018 Honda CR-V
VIN: 7FARW2H51JE081552
Dante Brown
130 Winterlake Dr Apt 30L
Midlothian, Vi 23113

2019 Chevrolet Malibu
VIN: 1G1ZE5SX6KF118725
Dennis J Molloy
15 Tom St
Feeding Hills, Ma 01030

2020 Landrover Discovery
VIN: SALRG2RV3L2424108
Ean Holdings Llc
1512 W 4T St
Mansfield, Oh 44906

Highland Trailer Pfr 13-16
VIN: 2H9BT1DZ5WR003563
Gurbaksh Ahuja
1 Rustic Ct
Plainville, Ny 11803

11/20, 11/27, 12/04/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P1997EA
Estate of:
Koral LaFlamme Blais
Also known as:
Koral LaFlamme-Blais
Date of Death: 05/04/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Tim Blais** of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Tim Blais** of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/18/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 20, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/04/2020

Commonwealth Of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate And Family Court Department
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD19P2082EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATWE
Estate of: Doris Stevens
Also known as:
Doris A Stevens
Date of Death: 08/02/2019

To all interested persons;

A Petition for **Sale of Real Estate** has been filed by: **John J Ferriter of Holyoke MA** requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/21/2020**.

This Is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 23, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/04/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD20P1995GD
In the interests of
Ashton James Uszynski
Of Chicopee, MA
Minor
NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. **Hearing Date/Time**: A hearing on a Petition for **Appointment of Guardian of a Minor** filed on 11/20/2020 by

James Uszynski of Chicopee, MA
Marcella Uszynski of Chicopee, MA
will be held 12/21/202011:20 AM

Motion. Located: **Go to Zoom.us or call 646-828-7666,1D#161 0035002**

2. **Response to Petition**: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. **Counsel for the Minor**: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. **Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. **Presence of the Minor at Hearing**: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

Date: November 20, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/04/2020

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Chicopee Register

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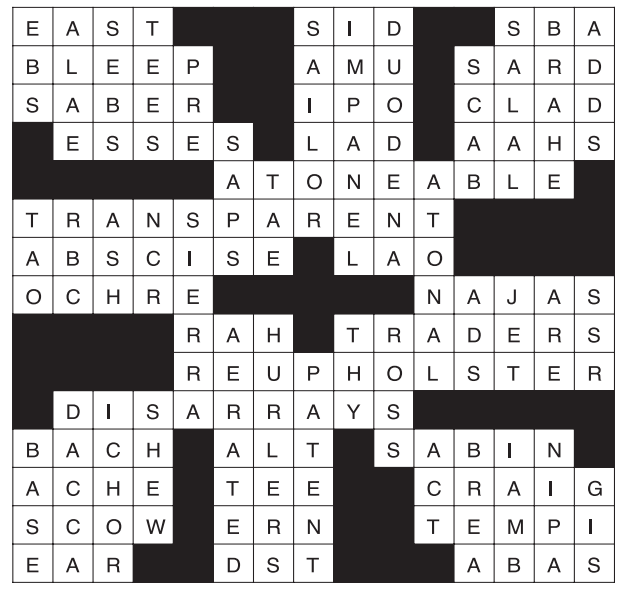

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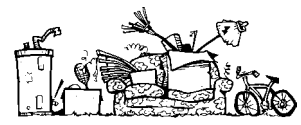

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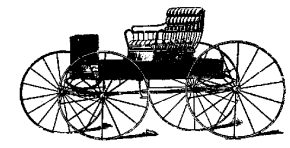

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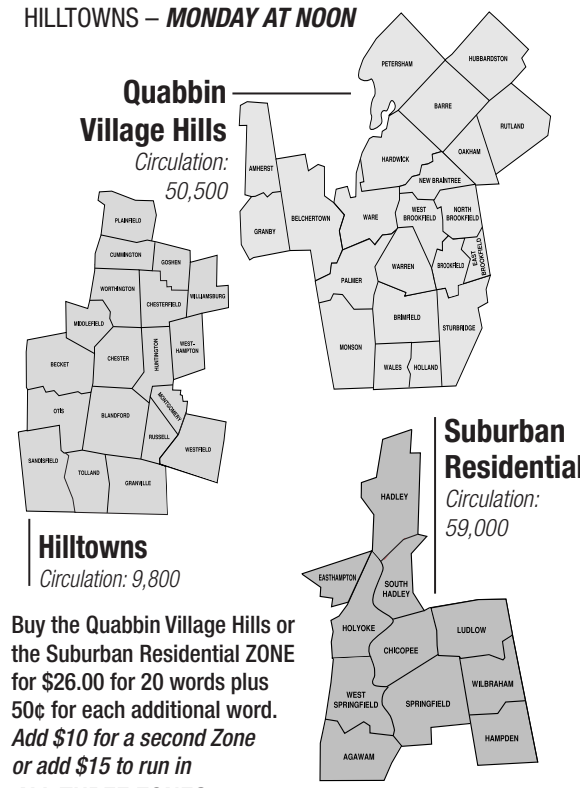

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Online scams could spike during holidays, experts warn

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Online shopping has become more prominent than ever during the COVID-19 pandemic, and scammers are salivating at the opportunity to take advantage of unknowing consumers this holiday season.

For that reason, the Better Business Bureau of Central New England is hard at work uncovering scams and spreading awareness in an effort to prevent residents from being swindled. Nancy Cahalen, President of the BBB's Central New England office in Marlborough, Mass., shed light on the intricate and ever-evolving world of online scamming.

"With the holidays approaching, it's time for people to do a lot of online shopping, and scams relating to online purchases were already on the rise in 2019," said Cahalen. "Since the pandemic began, they've spiked much higher. Scammers are taking advantage of the fact that people are doing a lot more shopping online and maybe aren't as savvy and familiar with it."

The BBB reports that 80.5% of consumers who have reported online scams in 2020 lost money. In 2019, only 24.3% of consumers who were scammed online lost money, a rising figure that Cahalen attributes to fear, uncertainty and the "COVID effect."

Beginning in March and April, scammers jumped at the chance to cheat consumers attempting to purchase personal protective equipment online. As the season of giving approaches and online shopping continues to be commonplace, scammers have already begun an onslaught of cheating.

To hopefully combat that trend, the BBB Scam Tracker is up and running. The investigative tool tracks all reported scams and alerts residents to their existence.

Since being launched in 2015, the Scam Tracker has enabled in-depth studies of online purchase scams. The data that the BBB has compiled from victims has thwarted countless other scams.

"We ask people to report scams whether or not they lose money because we want to prevent other people from being scammed. The more information about scams that we can get out there, the better," said Cahalen.

When looking for potential scams, unreasonably attractive sale prices are typically suspect. If an offer is too good to be true, it most likely is, Cahalen said.

Additionally, individuals using debit cards or peer-to-peer payment options such as Venmo are more likely to be scammed and lose money than those who use debit cards. Cahalen explained a well-observed trend.

"When shopping online, we always recommend paying with a credit card because there's protection built in, and you can always refute the charge if it turns out that there is a scam. People who use credit cards are less likely to lose money," she said.

Recently, scammers have developed false tracking information to throw off consumers awaiting orders in the mail. By the time the irregularity is realized, the scammer is often out of reach, and money spent on the expected item is lost.

Scarcity also allows scammers to lie their way towards stealing money. Just as was observed with PPE during the early stages of the pandemic, scammers are primed to rip off individuals who are unable to find their desired goods anywhere else.

"Availability can be a motivating factor for those who lost money. A lot of things became scarce during COVID, but the holidays always have had scarce, popular items," said Cahalen.

Individuals perpetrating online scams rely on consumer patterns. Pop-up advertisements observed on social media pages cannot always be trusted, said Cahalen, as scammers pay close attention to the most searched-for items.

"Scammers have access to the same marketing tools that legitimate marketers do," said Cahalen. "They really understand how consumers make these decisions. They're very educated on this. It's not a slapdash approach. They're also using the same online social media adds that legitimate marketers use. It's sometimes hard to pick out the scams from the ones that aren't."

Anyone can become the victim of a scam, regardless of age, sex or demographic, but studies show that people between age 35 and 44 are most at risk to lose money to an online purchase scam.

For more information concerning the maze that is online scamming, residents can visit bbb.org.

Bright Nights opens for 26th season

SPRINGFIELD – The Bright Nights at Forest Park switch has been flipped on with some assistance from Santa.

On Nov. 25, in front of the Giant Poinsettia Candles, Santa lead the countdown with assistance from Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno, Spirit of Springfield President Judy Matt, Patrick Sullivan, Executive Director of Springfield's Department of Parks, Buildings and Recreation Management, Helen Caulton-Harris, Springfield Health and Human Services Commissioner, Dr. Robert Roose, Chief Medical Officer, Mercy Medical Center, and Dr. Mark Keroack, President and Chief Executive Officer for Baystate Health, sponsor and supporters.

Bright Nights is celebrating the spirit of the season, now through Jan. 6, 2021, with COVID-19 safety protocols in place. Gates will open nightly at 4:45 p.m. Advance ticket purchases will be required, either from brightnights.org or at Big Y World Class Markets.

The event will be a drive-through experience only. Visitors must remain in their vehicles throughout the experience, and masks must be worn.

The Bright Nights program book is available online at brightnights.org. Due to Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker's current COVID-19 order, Bright Nights entry gate will close nightly at 8:45 p.m. so that visitors will exit the park by 9:30 p.m. Admission is $23 per car. Discounted tickets sold at Big Y World Class Markets are $16.50 each.

The cost for admission to Bright Nights for opening night was rolled back to 1995, Bright Nights inaugural season, to $6 per car.

Discounted admission will also be available on Tuesday, Dec. 8, and admission will be $10 per car. Discounted tickets will only be accepted on the designated nights and will be available in limited quantities, since the gates will not be open beyond 8:45 p.m.

Bright Nights' 26th season is sponsored by AAA – Pioneer Valley, American Eagle Financial Credit Union, American Medical Response, Balise Auto, Baystate Health, Big Y World Class Markets, C & S Wholesale Grocers, Charlie Arment Trucking Inc., Comcast, Eversource Energy, Gleason Johndrow Landscaping, Health New England (HNE), iHeart Media, MassLive, MassMutual, Mercy Medical Center, MGM Springfield, MP PC, PeoplesBank, The Republican, Smith & Wesson, Springfield Thunderbirds, and WWLP-22News.

The Spirit of Springfield has been collaborating with the Springfield Department of Parks, Buildings and Recreation Management since 1995 to present Bright Nights at Forest Park. The holiday lighting experience has entertained more than six million people and this year was recognized by the American Bus Association as one of their Best of the Best in their Festival and Events category.

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